

1 PAUL J. PASCUZZI, State Bar No. 148810
2 JASON E. RIOS, State Bar No. 190086
2 THOMAS R. PHINNEY, State Bar No. 159435
3 FELDERSTEIN FITZGERALD
3 WILLOUGHBY PASCUZZI & RIOS LLP
4 500 Capitol Mall, Suite 2250
4 Sacramento, CA 95814
5 Telephone: (916) 329-7400
5 Facsimile: (916) 329-7435
6 Email: ppascuzzi@ffwplaw.com
6 jrios@ffwplaw.com
7 tphinney@ffwplaw.com

7 ORI KATZ, State Bar No. 209561
8 ALAN H. MARTIN, State Bar No. 132301
8 SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP
9 A Limited Liability Partnership
9 Including Professional Corporations
10 Four Embarcadero Center, 17th Floor
10 San Francisco, California 94111-4109
11 Telephone: (415) 434-9100
11 Facsimile: (415) 434-3947
12 Email: okatz@sheppardmullin.com
12 amartin@sheppardmullin.com

13 Attorneys for The Roman Catholic Archbishop of
14 San Francisco

15 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

16 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

17 In re

Case No. 23-30564

18 THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP
18 OF SAN FRANCISCO,

Chapter 11

20 Debtor and
20 Debtor in Possession.

**DECLARATION OF PETER MARLOW IN
SUPPORT OF STATEMENT OF
COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICING
PROVISIONS OF BAR DATE ORDER**

22 *No Hearing Requested*

23 I, Peter Marlow, declare as follows:

24 1. I am the Director of Communications for The Roman Catholic Bishop of San
25 Francisco, the debtor and debtor in possession herein (the “RCASF” or the “Debtor”). I am
26 responsible for managing communications for RCASF. I am also the editor of the *Catholic San*
27 *Francisco* and *Catolico* newspaper, each a publication of the RCASF. I have personal knowledge
28

Case No. 23-30564

SMRH:4866-3019-8418.4

DECLARATION OF PETER MARLOW RE COMPLIANCE WITH BAR DATE ORDER

1 of the facts contained in this declaration, except as to matters alleged upon information and belief,
2 and as to those matters, I believe them to be true. If called upon as a witness, I could and would
3 testify as follows.

4 2. I make this declaration concerning compliance with the Court's *Order: (1) Fixing*
5 *Time for Filing Proofs of Claim; (2) Approving Proof of Claim Forms; (3) Providing Confidential*
6 *Protocols; and (4) Approving Form and Manner of Notice* (ECF No. 337) (the "Bar Date Order"),
7 particularly as it relates to potential survivor claimants (referred to in the Bar Date Order and in this
8 declaration as "Survivor Claimants").¹ I was personally involved in the efforts to design and
9 implement the Debtor's efforts to serve and publicize the notice of the deadlines for Survivor
10 Claimants to assert and file claims in the Debtor's bankruptcy case (the "Publication Notice") and
11 in this regard worked closely with Debtor's counsel to ensure compliance with the Bar Date Order.

12 3. As described below, the Debtor has complied with the noticing and publication
13 actions described in the Bar Date Order and has also taken additional measures to ensure that as
14 many people as possible have been given notice of the deadlines set forth in the Bar Date Order.

15 4. Bar Date Order ¶ 14(a). Promptly following entry of the Bar Date Order, I
16 completed or caused the completion of the following:

17 a. Modification of the Debtor's website (<https://www.sfarchdiocese.org>) to
18 include (i) access to information regarding the Debtor's bankruptcy case, (ii) a link to the
19 Publication Notice, and (iii) a link to the Debtor's claims agent's (Omni Agent Solutions,
20 Inc.) landing page for the Debtor's bankruptcy case are prominently posted;² and

21 b. On behalf of the Debtor, I requested that the Survivors Network of those
22 Abused by Priests ("SNAP") post the Survivor Claim Bar Date Notice on its website.

23 5. Bar Date Order ¶ 16(a) and (b). After entry of the Bar Date Order, I used the form
24 of the Publication Notice, to cause the Debtor to prepare an announcement of the Survivor Claim
25 Bar Date, in English and Spanish (the "Bar Date Announcement"). I prepared a communication

26 _____
27 ¹ All terms not otherwise defined herein have the same meaning as in the Order.
28 ² Specifically, the main page posts a link to a page on the Debtor's website dedicated to
information regarding the Debtor's bankruptcy case: <https://www.sfarchdiocese.org/protecting-children/>.

1 for Archbishop Cordileone to send to all parish and mission priests located within the geographic
2 territory of the Archdiocese to publish the Bar Date Announcement in the language in which that
3 parish or mission conducts Mass (English or Spanish). At the same time, the communication
4 from the Archbishop requested that each parish and mission in the Archdiocese post a flyer
5 announcing the Survivor Claim Bar Date in a prominent location starting no later than January 9,
6 2024 (six weeks prior to February 20, 2024) and continuing through February 20, 2024 (the Claim
7 Bar Date). Based upon the outreach I conducted to the parishes and missions located within the
8 geographic territory of the Archdiocese, I believe that a vast majority of the parishes and missions
9 have complied with the requests.

10 6. Bar Date Order ¶ 16(c). After entry of the Bar Date Order, the Debtor posted the
11 Bar Date and Survivor Claim Bar Date on the following social media accounts of the Debtor,
12 beginning January 9, 2024:

13 a. X (f/k/a Twitter):

14 i. Debtor's account. I caused the Bar Date and Survivor Claim Bar
15 Date, together with instructions to visit www.sfar.org/protecting-children for
16 more information on how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated
17 documents, on the following dates: January 11, 16, and 27, and February 3, 10,
18 and 17, 2024.

19 ii. Archbishop Cordileone's account. I caused the Bar Date and
20 Survivor Claim Bar Date, together with instructions to visit
21 www.sfar.org/protecting-children for more information on how to obtain and
22 file a proof of claim form and associated documents, on the following dates:
23 January 12, 13, 16, 17, and 23, 2024.

24 b. Instagram. I caused the Bar Date and Survivor Claim Bar Date, together
25 with instructions to visit www.sfar.org/protecting-children for more information on
26 how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, on the following
27 dates: January 11, 16, and 27, and February 3, 10, and 17, 2024.

28

1 c. Facebook. I caused the Bar Date and Survivor Claim Bar Date, together
2 with instructions to visit www.sfarch.org/protecting-children for more information on
3 how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, on the following
4 dates: January 11, 16, and 27, and February 3, 10, and 17, 2024.

5 7. True and correct copies of one set of social media postings are submitted herewith
6 as Exhibit A.

7 8. As the editor of *Catholic San Francisco* magazine and the quarterly *Catolico*
8 newspaper I caused the Publication Notice to be published in *Catholic San Francisco* and
9 *Catolico* in the following edition(s) published on the following date: *Catholic San Francisco*
10 Dec. 2023 and Jan. 2024 and *Catolico* Dec. issue], each of which publication dates followed the
11 entry of the Bar Date Order. *Catholic San Francisco* has a circulation of approximately 47,000
12 and *Catolico* has a circulation of approximately 4,000. True and correct copies of one set of
13 publication in English and Spanish is submitted herewith as Exhibit B.

14 9. Given the large number of Chinese-speaking individuals in the counties served by
15 the Archdiocese, I also initiated the posting of the Publication Notice in Sing Tao Daily and on
16 Chinese Radio at least one month prior to the expiration of the Survivor Claim Bar Date. A true
17 copy of the advertisement is submitted herewith as Exhibit C; a true copy of the radio script is
18 submitted herewith as Exhibit D.

19 10. Additional significant measures relating to notifying the public about the
20 bankruptcy case generally were also previously taken by the Debtor. On August 4, 2023,
21 Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone (the “Archbishop”) issued a letter that was posted on the
22 Archdiocesan website that the Debtor also sent to all Archdiocesan pastors and parish
23 administrators providing notice of the intention to commence the Debtor’s chapter 11 bankruptcy
24 case due to the number of pending sexual abuse lawsuits. A true and correct copy of the letter is
25 submitted herewith as Exhibit E.

26 ///

27 ///

28

1 11. On August 21, 2023, or the petition date, the Archbishop issued a press release
2 that the Debtor sent to more than 9000 news organizations, announcing the commencement of
3 the Debtor's chapter 11 bankruptcy petition due the number of pending sexual abuse lawsuits. A
4 true and correct copy of the press release is submitted herewith as Exhibit F.

5 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing
6 facts are true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on February 27, 2024, in San
7 Francisco, California.

8 

9 Peter Marlow

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Exhibit A

Social Media Posts

Archbishop's X

@ArchCordileone

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California San Francisco Division released a notice to file additional claims in the Archdiocese of San Francisco's Chapter 11 filing by Feb. 20, 2024. Visit <http://sfarch.org/protecting-children...> for more information.



From sfarch.org | 2:35 PM · Jan 12, 2024 | 2,695 Views | View post engagements

Archdiocese X

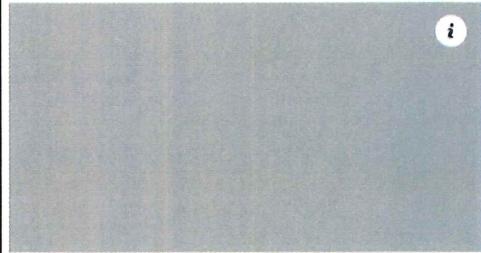


Archdiocese of San Francisco

Posted by Mary Powers

6d •

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California San Francisco Division released a notice to file additional claims in the Archdioces... See more



sfarch.org

Protecting Children - Questions and Answers - Archdiocese of San Francisco

[See insights and ads](#)

Boost post

1

 Like

Q Comment

Send

 Share

SMRH-4866-3019-84184

DECLARATION OF PETER MARLOW RE COMPLIANCE WITH BAR DATE ORDER

Case No. 23-30564

1 Exhibit A (continued)
2

3 Social Media Posts
4

5 Archdiocese Instagram
6

7  sfarchdiocese ...
8

9 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE
10 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
11 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION
12

13 NOTICE OF DEADLINE FOR FILING CLAIMS:
14 FEBRUARY 20, 2024
15



16 ARCHDIOCESE OF
17 SAN FRANCISCO
18

19 View insights

20 Boost post



21 Liked by stjohn_sf and 6 others
22 sfarchdiocese The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the
23 Northern District of California San Francisco Division
24 released a notice to file additional claims in the
25 Archdiocese of San Francisco's Chapter 11 filing. For
more information on how to obtain and file a proof of
claim form and associated documents, please visit
www.sfarch.org/protecting-children.
6 days ago

16 Archdiocese Facebook
17



18 @ArchdioceseSF ...

19 The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern
20 District of California San Francisco Division
21 released a notice to file additional claims in the
22 Archdiocese of San Francisco's Chapter 11 filing
23 by Feb. 20, 2024. Visit sfarch.org/protecting-children... for more information.
24



26 5:40 PM · 2/17/24 From Earth · 154 Views
27

28  View analytics

1 Like

Exhibit B

Catholic San Francisco Magazine

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT
OF CALIFORNIA – SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

**In re: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of
San Francisco, Case No. 23-30564**

Notice of Deadline for Filing Claims: February 20, 2024

**YOU MAY HAVE A SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM OR OTHER
CLAIM AGAINST THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

On August 21, 2023, The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, a California corporation sole, aka Archdiocese of San Francisco (the "Debtor"), filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Debtor, you must file a claim so as to be received by February 20, 2024, or otherwise you will be forever barred, estopped, and enjoined from asserting such claim against the Debtor.

Claims based on acts or omissions of the Debtor that occurred before August 21, 2023, must be filed on or before February 20, 2024, even if such claims are not now fixed, liquidated, or certain or did not mature or become fixed, liquidated, or certain before August 21, 2023.

For more information on how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, please visit <https://omniagentsolutions.com/RCASF>, or contact Omni Agent Solutions, Inc., the Debtor's claims agent via email at RCASFinquiries@omniagent.com or by phone at 889-480-6507 (U.S. and Canada toll free) or 747-293-0084 (International), between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Pacific Time), Monday through Friday.

****If you have questions about the bankruptcy case filed by the Archdiocese of San Francisco, please also visit the website at <https://sfarch.org> and follow the links for Chapter 11 Filing****

Catolico Newspaper

TRIBUNAL DE BANCARROTA DE ESTADOS
UNIDOS PARA EL DISTRITO NORTE DE
CALIFORNIA – DIVISIÓN DE SAN FRANCISCO

**En re: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco,
Caso No. 23-30564**

Aviso de fecha límite para presentar reclamaciones:
20 de febrero de 2024

**USTED PUEDE TENER UN RECLAMO DE ABUSO SEXUAL U OTRO
RECLAMO CONTRA LA ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE SAN FRANCISCO**

El 21 de agosto de 2023, *The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco*, una corporación única de California, también conocida como Arquidiócesis de San Francisco (el "Deudor"), solicitó protección bajo el capítulo 11 del título 11 del Código de los Estados Unidos (el "Código de Bancarrotas"). Si usted fue abusado sexualmente por cualquier persona relacionada

Si usted fue abusado sexualmente por cualquier persona relacionada con el deudor, usted debe presentar un reclamo para ser recibido antes del 20 de febrero de 2024, o de lo contrario se le prohibirá para siempre hacer valer tal reclamo contra el Deudor.

Los reclamos basados en actos u omisiones del Deudor que ocurrieron antes del 21 de agosto de 2023, deben presentarse antes del 20 de febrero de 2024, incluso si tales reclamos no están ahora fijos, liquidados o ciertos o no han vencido o se han fijado, liquidado o ciertos antes del 21 de agosto de 2023.

últimos días del 21 de agosto de 2020.
Para obtener más información sobre cómo obtener y presentar un formulario de prueba de reclamación y los documentos asociados, visite <https://omniagentolutions.com/RCASE> o póngase en contacto con Omni Agent Solutions, Inc., el agente de reclamaciones del Deudor a través del correo electrónico RCASFInquiries@omniagt.com o por teléfono en el 888-480-6507 (llamada gratuita en EE.UU. y Canadá) o 747-293-0084 (internacional), entre las 9:00 a.m. y las 5:00 p. m. (hora predominante del Pacífico), de lunes a viernes.

****Si usted tiene preguntas sobre el caso de bancarrota presentado por *the Archdiocese of San Francisco*, por favor visite también el sitio web en <https://sfarch.org> y siga los enlaces para la presentación del Capítulo 11****

Exhibit C

Sing Tao Daily Ad

Ad120323te1

廣告

420字

北加州聯邦破產法院三藩市分院

天主教三藩市總教區案件號碼23-30564

提出索賠限期通知：2024年2月20日

您可能對天主教三藩市總教區提出性侵索賠或其他索賠

2023年8月21日，作為加州獨體法人(corporation sole)的天主教三藩市總教區(又稱三藩市總教區，下稱「債務人」)依美國法典第11章(破產法)申請破產保護。

如果您曾遭任何與債務人相關的人士性侵，您須於2024年2月20日或之前提出索賠，才能獲得賠償。否則您將永遠被禁止和阻止向債務人提出此類索賠。

基於債務人於2023年8月21日之前發生的行為或疏漏的索賠，即使此類索賠目前尚未解決、清償或確定，或於2023年8月21日之前尚未解決、清償或確定，都務必於2024年2月20日或之前提出。

如欲查詢如何索取和提交索償證明表格和相關文件，請瀏覽

<https://omniagentsolutions.com/RCASF>、發送電郵至RCASFinquiries@omniagnt.com或於周一至周五太平洋時間早上9時至下午5時撥打888-480-6507(美國及加州免費熱線)或747-293-0084(國際專用)，與債務人索賠事務代理機構Omni Agent Solutions, Inc.取得聯繫。

若您對三藩市總教區提出的破產案件有任何疑問，也可瀏覽<https://sfarch.org>並點擊Chapter 11 Filing的連結查詢。

Exhibit D

Chinese Radio Script

2023年8月21日，作為加州獨體法人的天主教三藩市總教區，依美國法典第11章(破產法)申請破產保護。

如果您會遭任何與三藩市總教區相關的人士性侵，您須於2024年2月20日或之前提出索賠，否則您將永遠被禁止向總教區提出此類索賠。

如想查詢如何索取和提交索償證明表格和相關文件，請發送電郵至
RCASFinquiries@omniagent.com或撥打888-480-6507與Omni Agent Solutions 聯繫。

若您對三藩市總教區提出的破產案件有任何問題，也可瀏覽網站<https://sfarch.org>。

###

Exhibit E

August 4, 2023, Statement Posted on Archdiocesan Website (Pre-Chapter 11 Filing)

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone, Archbishop of San Francisco, shares important news in response to the lawsuits filed against the Archdiocese under California Assembly Bill 218 Child Sexual Abuse - Statute of Limitations.

August 4, 2023 // Archbishop

Dear Friends in Christ:

As many of you may know, Catholic dioceses in California have undergone two "open window" periods allowing individuals under civil law to bring claims for childhood sexual abuse that otherwise would have been barred due to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

In 2002, the California Legislature permitted certain expired claims of childhood sexual abuse not only against the perpetrators but also against third-party defendants (like the dioceses) for a one-year period starting January 1, 2003. This resulted in the Archdiocese of San Francisco selling excess property and drawing on insurance coverage to pay approximately \$68 million to roughly 100 plaintiffs to settle claims.

In 2019, the State of California again removed the statute of limitations on sexual abuse claims for non-profit organizations, opening a new three-year window allowing cases to be filed against the Archdiocese through December 31, 2022. This resulted in more than 500 civil lawsuits being filed against the Archdiocese. The judge assigned to us has set an imminent trial date for one of the initial cases against the Archdiocese.

I want you to know that, as with the 2003 window, the vast majority of the alleged abuse occurred in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s and involved priests who are deceased or no longer in ministry. In addition to deceased individuals who can no longer defend themselves, a significant number of these claims include unnamed individuals or named individuals who are unknown to the Archdiocese.

Case No. 23-30564

1 For several months now, with the assistance of our financial and legal advisors, we
2 have been investigating the best options for managing and resolving these cases. After
3 much contemplation and prayer, I wish to inform you that a Chapter 11 bankruptcy
4 reorganization is very likely. It would allow the Archdiocese to achieve two very
5 important goals. First, Chapter 11 is a process that brings all parties together in one
6 place to resolve difficult claims fairly and equitably under the supervision of the
7 bankruptcy court, allowing the Archdiocese to deal with the hundreds of cases
8 collectively rather than one at a time. That could result in a faster resolution for
9 hundreds of survivors, providing them with fair compensation and finally, hopefully,
10 some peace and closure. Secondly, Chapter 11 would allow the Archdiocese to
11 reorganize its financial affairs to continue its vital ministries to the faithful and to the
12 communities that rely on our services and charity.

13 If a Chapter 11 is filed, only the legal entity, The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San
14 Francisco, a Corporation Sole, would be included. The operations of our parishes and
15 schools should continue as usual without disruption, as should the activities of the
16 Archdiocese. The Archdiocese would join a growing list of dioceses in the United States
17 and California that have filed for protection under the bankruptcy laws. Some of these
18 dioceses have already restructured and emerged from this process.

19 I am deeply saddened by the sinful acts and the damage caused to the lives of innocent
20 children who put their trust in priests, staff, and volunteers of the Church. I pray for
21 the survivors every day that they will someday find peace. Throughout my service of
22 more than a decade as Archbishop of San Francisco, I have maintained the unwavering
23 commitment to fighting sexual abuse of minors and helping the Church atone for the
24 sins of the past perpetuated by her ministers. I have appointed diligent and serious
25 people to manage our safe environment program, which continues to engage in
26 regular education, background screening, and fingerprinting of employees and
27 volunteers who work with minors.

28 At the heart of our outreach to survivors is creating a welcoming environment and
29 compassionate assistance. The Archdiocese provides various services to assist
30 survivors, including counseling and spiritual direction.

1 By utilizing a stringent screening process and enhancing awareness and education for
2 children and adults, the occurrences of abuse within the Church are very rare. Today,
3 I believe the Catholic Church sets the standard for other organizations, showing what
4 can and should be done to protect our children.

5 The situation remains very fluid, and given the anxiety this scenario understandably
6 presents, we have updated the Protecting Children questions and answers on
7 our [website](#) to address some obvious concerns you may have.

8 I remain committed to the healing and care of survivors who have suffered irreversible
9 harm because of the sins of the Church's ministers and ask you to join me in praying
10 for our Archdiocese, parish communities, schools, and all the survivors of sexual
11 abuse. In particular, I ask you to commit, or renew your commitment, to Living the
12 Consecration that I called for on October 7, 2017, when, in response to a request from
13 many of our people, I consecrated our Archdiocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

14 While a great majority of these sins were committed many decades ago, it is a sign of
15 Christian solidarity that we join together in praying the rosary daily and at least once
16 a week as a family, spending an hour of adoration of our Lord in the Blessed
17 Sacrament once a week, and fasting on Fridays for the survivors of abuse, for the
18 mission of our Archdiocese, and for the eradication of this shameful crime from our
19 society as a whole. God is pleased by such prayer and penance, and doing so will open
20 our hearts to the blessings He wishes to lavish upon us.

21 May God shower you and your families with His grace during these difficult times.

22 ***Sincerely yours in Christ, our Prince of Peace,***

23 ***Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone Archbishop of San Francisco***

24 ###
25
26
27
28

Exhibit F

August 21, 2023, Press Release (Day of Chapter 11 Filing)

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco Files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy to Facilitate Settlements with Abuse Survivors

Parishes, Schools, Cemeteries, and Related Organizations and Ministries are Not Included in the Filing

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 21, 2023--The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco (“RCASF”) announced today the filing of a voluntary petition for bankruptcy relief under chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. The filing is necessary to manage and resolve the more than 500 lawsuits alleging child sexual abuse brought against RCASF under California Assembly Bill 218, which allowed decades-old claims to be filed by December 31, 2022, that otherwise were time barred.

Chapter 11 is a court-supervised process that allows each claim to be evaluated on its merits, provides transparency into the proceedings and into RCASF's finances, and gives claimants a voice in the outcome. The Chapter 11 filing will halt all legal actions against RCASF while the Archdiocese develops a plan of reorganization that is based on assets and insurance coverage available to be used to settle claims with abuse survivors.

13 This is the second time California has allowed time-barred or expired cases of child sexual abuse to
14 be filed by alleged survivors. In 2003, California created a similar window. Since that time, RCASF
has paid more than \$70 million to survivors in legal settlements by using insurance funds and selling
excess property.

The 88 parishes within the Archdiocese are independently managed and self-financed and, along with their parochial schools, are not included in the filing. The Real Property Support Corporation, Capital Asset Support Corporation, high schools, Catholic cemeteries, St Patrick's Seminary & University, and Catholic Charities associated with RCASF also are not included in the filing and will continue to operate as usual.

Employees of the Archdiocese will be paid as usual, and their benefit programs will continue uninterrupted. Vendors will be paid for all goods and services delivered after the filing. RCASF will continue to serve the 442,000 Catholics in the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin, and its priests and deacons will continue to carry out their missions and ministries within the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

The overwhelming majority of the more than 500 claims stem from allegations of sexual abuse that occurred 30 or more years ago involving priests who are no longer active in ministry or are deceased. “The unfortunate reality is that the Archdiocese has neither the financial means nor the practical ability to litigate all of these abuse claims individually, and therefore, after much consideration, concluded that the bankruptcy process was the best solution for providing fair and equitable compensation to the innocent survivors who have been harmed,” said The Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone, Archbishop of San Francisco. “It is the best way to bring much-needed resolution to survivors while allowing the Archdiocese to continue its sacred mission to the faithful and those in need. We must seek purification and redemption to heal, especially survivors who have carried the burdens of these sins against them for decades.”

27 The Archdiocese of San Francisco has been committed to providing available resources such as
28 counseling and pastoral assistance to survivors of abuse and had established policies and protocols
to protect children and address and report incidents of sexual abuse of minors even before the U.S.

1 Bishops adopted the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in 2002. The
2 Archdiocese has taken exhaustive steps to satisfy the Charter by immediately removing from active
3 ministry any person with an allegation of sexual childhood abuse, requiring criminal background
4 checks for clergy, employees, and volunteers who work with youth, and implementing educational
5 programs for both children and adults to prevent abuse.

6 The Archdiocese maintains an Independent Review Board (IRB) as an essential step in its internal
7 procedures for handling allegations of sexual abuse. A qualified investigator conducts investigations
8 into allegations and submits a report to the IRB, whose members include an abuse survivor,
9 psychologist, two physicians, a retired police officer, among others. They judge whether there is
10 sufficient evidence to warrant a canonical trial or if an accusation is manifestly unfounded. The
11 recommendations made to the Archbishop are indispensable, as this independent and expert advice
12 directs whether an accused priest should be out of public ministry while canonical procedures are
13 pending or when, in justice, the Archbishop should remediate damage to the reputation of a priest
14 who has been wrongly accused. A list of priests and deacons who are in good standing and have
15 faculties to minister can be found on the Archdiocese [website](#). Priests or deacons who are under
16 investigation for alleged child sexual abuse are prohibited from exercising public ministry and are
17 removed from the list and can only return to ministry or the list if the allegations are found not to be
18 sustained.

19 The Archdiocese also established an Office of Child and Youth Protection to maintain the highest
20 standards for its preventative Safe Environment Program and address allegations of past and current
21 abuse by any clergy, employee, or volunteer, and has two Safe Environment Coordinators to monitor
22 compliance with the Charter. A Victim Assistance Coordinator maintains a hotline for reporting
23 abuse, provides counseling, and offers other support services. The Office is also responsible for
24 coordinating the fingerprinting of employees, volunteers, and clerics who interact with children, as
25 well as facilitating annual compliance audits conducted by independent auditors to review the
26 implementation of policies and procedures for the protection of children.

27 "Today, occurrences of abuse within the Catholic Church are very rare," said Archbishop
28 Cordileone. "Given the educational and preventative measures now in place, I believe the Church
has set the standard for other organizations, showing what can and should be done to protect our
children."

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco Chapter 11 case has been filed in the U.S.
Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California. Additional general information can be
found on the Archdiocesan [website](#).

###